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RESTRICTIONS
ON
CANADIAN CATTLE.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT

BY
SIR CHARLES TUPPER, C.B. & K.C.M.G.,
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA,

M/DE AT
WESTMINSTER PALACE HOTEL, LONDON,

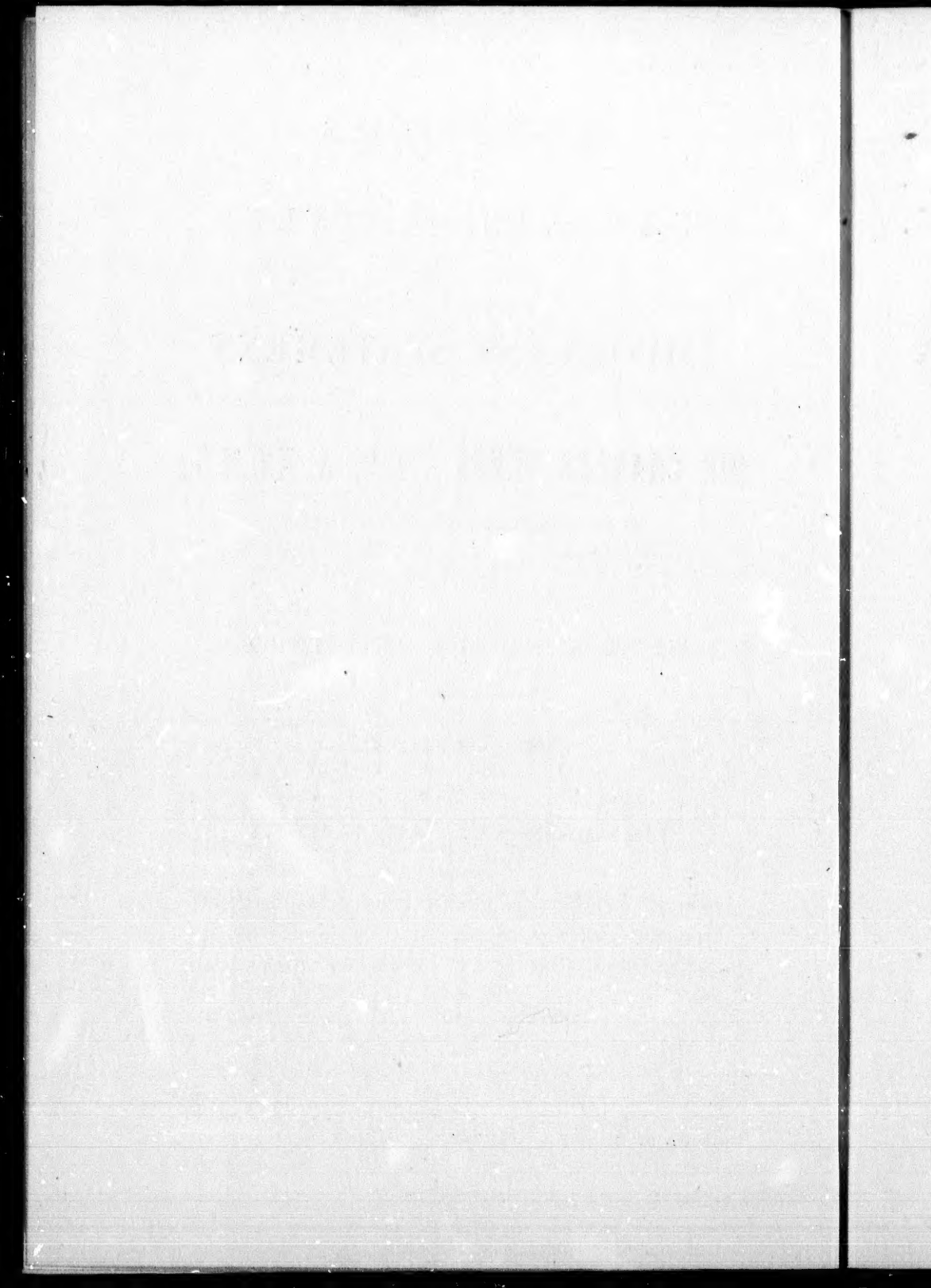
ON
13th JULY, 1893,

TO
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
AND
PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE TRADE, PRELIMINARY
TO INTERVIEW WITH MR. HERBERT GARDNER, M.P.,
PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

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1893



RESTRICTIONS ON CANADIAN CATTLE.

A meeting of members of deputations from Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dundee, Aberdeen, and other districts in England and Scotland, was held in Westminster Palace Hotel, London, on 13th July 1893, along with a large number of Members of Parliament, principally to hear a statement by Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, on the unjust and unwarranted restrictions on the importation of Canadian Cattle.

Ex-PROVOST BROWNE, Crosshill, convener of the Executive Committee, presided, and, in introducing Sir C. Tupper, expressed their great disappointment that the Board of Agriculture not only refused to remove the restrictions, but would not continue the inspection of the animals on their arrival. The matter therefore had assumed a very serious form, and they thought it advisable to go again to Mr. Gardner and state their case.

Sir C. TUPPER, who was very cordially received, said—Mr. Chairman, my Lord, and gentleman,—I have very great pleasure in meeting you here to-day, and, so far from you being under any obligation to me, it is quite the other way. The interests of Canada in this question are very vital, and I am very glad to know that those interests are in unison with the great body of gentlemen whom I now address, and who, as I understand, represent nearly the whole of Scotland, the north of England, and other sections of the country. I think I might fairly say that there is no person in this great country who is not interested in doing what I call justice to the Dominion of Canada upon so important a question as this. I know the value of your time, and I should hesitate to occupy it at any length, and, therefore, I shall endeavour to group within as small a compass as I can the grounds on which I undertake to say

that the veterinary department of the Board of Agriculture have made

A VERY SERIOUS MISTAKE

on the whole of this matter. (Applause.) The position of this question was succinctly put by Mr. Chaplin, the late President of the Board of Agriculture, in addressing the Royal Agricultural Society of England on November 3rd last. He said :—

If the facts were as stated, and as he himself understood—namely, that the disease had been ascertained to be contagious pleuro-pneumonia that had been found amongst Canadian cattle, and that it was clear that it had not been contracted since their arrival in this country—then it was of immense importance that the slaughter of all animals imported from Canada should be pressed on the Board of Agriculture with all the force and weight that the Council could command.

Now, I endorse every word of that. I say I should be ashamed to stand here one single moment to press on the Government of this country the admission of Canadian cattle free from the restrictions that apply to countries where pleuro-pneumonia exists if it could be shown that pleuro-pneumonia existed in the Dominion of Canada. On the contrary, I should regard it as the first duty of the Government of this country to prohibit the importation.

NO PLEURO IN CANADA.

But I think I can give reasons to show that *pleuro-pneumonia contagiosa* does not exist, and never did exist, in Canada. It did occur in the quarantine grounds at Quebec once, but Canada attaches so much importance to the necessity of being free of pleuro-pneumonia that they slaughtered the whole of the large and valuable herd of blood-stock there at the time. A herd of the most costly character, numbering over 100, and all the animals in the quarantine station were slaughtered, and all the animals for five miles round it were slaughtered. That is an illustration of their determination to exterminate pleuro-pneumonia if it appeared in the Colony, but that was the only time it did exist in Canada, and it never got beyond the

quarantine station. (Applause.) On that point I may say that quarantine regulation is established along the boundary between the United States and Canada, because it is well known that pleuro-pneumonia has existed in the United States for many years. There is one point upon which the veterinary surgeons of the Department of Agriculture are entirely agreed, and that is that the cases which they held to be pleuro-pneumonia in September, 1890, coming from Canada, and the two cases that they held to be pleuro-pneumonia in October last coming from Canada, and the case now under consideration, are all precisely of the same character, and that the pathological examination of the lungs proves the cases of 1890 and of October last and of the present time to be practically identical. They admit that they do not all possess the same characteristics that pleuro-pneumonia shows in this country, but they hold it to be pleuro-pneumonia, and declare that the cases are all identical.

MR. CHAPLIN'S METHODS.

Now, when Mr. Chaplin was President of the Board of Agriculture, and had the responsibility of dealing with this question himself, these same gentlemen reported in October, 1890, that four cases of undoubted pleuro-pneumonia in Canadian cattle had been found to exist. But Mr. Chaplin did not schedule Canada. He had the responsibility himself, and not that of pressing it on a Government to which he was opposed, but he shrank from that, and he made the statement that I have just read to you, that it was a case that required the utmost care and supervision. (Applause.) But what more? Two years after he had had those "identical" cases reported to him by his veterinary department as pleuro-pneumonia, Mr. Chaplin declared in a public meeting, addressing the Chambers of Agriculture on the 2nd November last, that pleuro-pneumonia had never existed in Canada. He said—

Canada had always hitherto been supposed to be free from pleuro-pneumonia, and, under previous Administrations, Canadian cattle had been allowed to come into the country free.

Why did he say that when he had the evidence of the veterinary officers of his Department before him that two years before there had been those cases? I will tell you why he said it. He said it because he had 250,000 evidences against his Department to prove that they had been wrong. He said it, because in those two years about a quarter of a million cattle had been brought from all parts of Canada and been sent free all over this country without a trace of pleuro-pneumonia existing or being discoverable. That was the ground on which Mr. Chaplin declared two years afterwards that pleuro had never existed in Canada. But mark what more

OFFICIAL INCONSISTENCIES.

These gentlemen say that the cases are identical. About eight months ago they reported to the Department of Agriculture that two cases identically the same as those found in 1890 had presented themselves of undoubted pleuro-pneumonia, and on that declaration the Government scheduled Canada. I have no hesitation in saying that they did it unwillingly, but they did it, acting as they considered it was necessary for them to act on the advice of the responsible officers of the Department. I will do them the justice to say that the Committee of Her Majesty's Privy Council did me the honour of receiving and consulting me and hearing my proposal for getting over the difficulty on the occasion, and were good enough to endeavour to avoid scheduling Canada, and it was only when the Crown officers said they had no alternative that they did not accept the proposition I made to them. What has happened since? These gentlemen have reported that two identical cases with those of 1890 had appeared last October, and the Government scheduled Canada and passed an Order that all Canadian animals should be slaughtered on arrival, and their lungs carefully examined, until they were satisfied with regard to this question. Well, that has been done. But since Canada was scheduled some 45,000 cattle have been brought into the country, and 15,000 of them had been allowed to go into the country

before the schedule was brought into operation. The lungs of the remainder—over 25,000—have been examined, and these gentlemen say—"At last we have found one lung out of 300,000 cattle brought from Canada since 1890; we have found the two cases reported eight months ago, and one lung that indicates pleuro-pneumonia." I undertake to say even in the presence of gentlemen who understand about pleuro-pneumonia much better than I do, that it would be impossible to adduce more incontrovertible evidence of the freedom of Canada from pleuro pneumonia than the facts that now stand in evidence. I will briefly state why I say so. Every person who knows anything about pleuro-pneumonia knows that it is

A DISEASE THAT CANNOT BE CONCEALED,

and that it is known by evidences impossible to conceal. Yet from the time eight months ago when they declared that Canada had pleuro-pneumonia a quarter of a million cattle have been brought to this country. There have been 15,000 live Canadian cattle sent all over the country, and the lungs of the rest examined, and yet not a trace of the disease had been discovered, except in that one lung alone. (Applause.) What does this prove? I say it is conclusive—and, remember, these gentlemen say the cases are identically the same in 1890, in October, 1892, and in May—it is conclusive that if pleuro-pneumonia had existed it must have been discovered sooner. We ourselves had veterinary surgeons, for nobody was more interested in a wise and just solution of the question than the Government of Canada. We had those experts sent all over the country. The colony was searched from end to end. The districts from which those cattle came were specially investigated, and not a trace of pleuro-pneumonia was found in the whole colony, simply because it did not exist there. (Applause.) I cannot understand how any man, much more a veterinary surgeon, could hold the doctrine that this was pleuro-pneumonia. Where is the country in the world that had pleuro-

pneumonia in it and where it had not been discovered ?
(Applause.)

EMINENT VETERINARY SURGEONS' OPINIONS.

The most eminent veterinary surgeon in this country, and some of the most eminent veterinary surgeons on the continent of Europe, have agreed after careful examination of this same lung or lungs—for they are stated by the Department to be precisely analogous—that this is not pleuro-pneumonia. I think that ought to go for something. (Applause.) Every person knows that pleuro-pneumonia exists in every country of the world. Pleuro-pneumonia is simply inflammation of the lungs and pleura. But the broad distinction is this that while the pathological character of the lungs may exhibit many of the same indications, the one is a strongly contagious disease and the other is a disease that is perfectly innocuous. I have

TRACED THE ANIMAL

in the case under consideration. It came from Pilot Mount in Manitoba. It was packed in a car under conditions calculated to disseminate contagious disease if it existed. 250 cattle were brought from the same district, carried to Montreal, some 1,500 miles, then sent across the Atlantic, kept for ten days in this country before slaughtered, and not a trace of pleuro-pneumonia to be found. If this case had not occurred my position that the Department have made a mistake would not be so strong as it is, because I hold there is a disease of inflammation of the lungs of a perfectly innocuous character that occasionally occurs in animals of all countries and so simulates pleuro-pneumonia as to lead a person to believe it was pleuro-pneumonia. I am only doing justice to Her Majesty's Government when I say that they have had, in my judgment, most sympathetic consideration throughout this case. I can say, so far as Lord Ripon is concerned, that if he had been a Canadian Minister of Agriculture he could not have entered with more zeal and anxiety into this question than he has done. (Hear, hear.) The mere fact that the

Government were good enough to receive me and allow me to make my statement to the Committee of the Privy Council proves that the Government have not been unsympathetic with regard to this question. But there is a very important point that demands the consideration of this representative body and of Parliament, and that is that if the law of this country is in such a position that three veterinary surgeons, however eminent, can control the whole policy of the Government in reference to great interests in these islands, and can destroy a great branch of trade in Canada, it is time the question was reconsidered, and some measure taken by which relief could be found from such an anomalous condition of things. (Applause.) I made

A PROPOSAL TO MR. GARDNER

which I think was entitled to some consideration. I said—"Let these gentlemen do what the most eminent surgeons and medical men do when a question of great importance arises. They fall back upon a consultation with eminent men in the same profession, and the higher a man is the more ready and willing he is to have his own opinion subjected to that of others." I also made a proposal that I would undertake on the part of Canada to pay the expenses of sending over able and experienced men to prove that there was no pleuro-pneumonia there. These veterinary surgeons of the Department are not infallible. (A Voice—"They are very fallible.") Several years ago when the Department was under the charge of the Privy Council, Mr. Peel, the secretary, sent for me and said, "I have got very bad news for you." I said, "What is it?" He said, "Texan fever has been found in a cargo of Canadian cattle at Liverpool, and they are to be slaughtered to-morrow, and Canada is to be scheduled." I said that was a very startling statement, and asked if he was sure. He said there could be no doubt, that they had sent down one of their ablest veterinary surgeons, and that he had reported that there was no doubt whatever. I asked that the Order should be suspended for twenty-four hours,

and that I should be allowed to personally investigate the case. I went down, and the eminent veterinary surgeon who had been sent down by the Department had the candour to say that he had made

A COMPLETE MISTAKE.

When a few of the animals were killed they could not find a trace of Texan fever in connection with the case. The result was that the report was amended, the Order was removed, and the cattle allowed to go over the country. That is an evidence that these gentlemen are not infallible. (A Voice—"What was Mr. Gardner's reply to your proposals?") It was that the Department would give the most careful consideration to my proposals. (Laughter.) But the answer has been to stop the examination of Canadian cattle, and to adopt a policy which means that for this time henceforth and for ever no animal shall be allowed to come from Canada to this country alive. I was asked by the Government of Canada to appoint a veterinary surgeon to assist in the examinations, and having done so that official made a report, in which he pointed out the difference between contagious pleuro-pneumonia and the disease which was found to exist on that occasion. Everything that Canada could do has been done, and this question I shall have to leave in abler hands.

A WARNING.

But if it is found that one of the most important branches of the Canadian trade is to be destroyed by three gentlemen, however eminent, who are veterinary surgeons, and in face of the fact that, after the closest and fullest and most careful examination, no trace of pleuro-pneumonia can be found in Canada, I say it will produce in the minds of intelligent men of all parties and classes a sense of the great insecurity of the most important branch of our trade. (Applause.)

On the motion of ex-Lord Provost Ure, Glasgow, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Sir C. Tupper, and then the most of those present proceeded to the interview with the Minister of Agriculture.

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